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Finding Fortune in Traditional Medicine

Traditional medicines and treatments could help provide the next wave of affordable drugs and medicines for the world. But a phenomenon known as 'bio-prospecting' – in which global companies grab a stake in these once-free medicines - has been placing traditional medicines out of reach of Southern entrepreneurs. Pharmaceutical patents (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patents>) taken out by international drug companies are making traditional medicines expensive and inaccessible to the poor.

Indian scientists have identified more than 5000 bio-prospecting patents, worth some US \$150 million, taken out by companies outside India.

Now governments in countries like India are moving to protect these recipes and the plants and animals they are made from.

The Indian government has labelled 200,000 traditional treatments as public property and free for anyone to use. These treatments are key parts of the 5000-year-old Indian health system called Ayurvedic medicine (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayurveda>) - ayur means health in Sanskrit, veda means wisdom.

"We began to ask why multinational companies were spending millions of dollars to patent treatments that so many lobbies in Europe deny work at all," said Dr. Vinod Kumar Gupta, head of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, which lists in encyclopaedic detail the 200,000 treatments.

"If you can take a natural remedy and isolate the active ingredient then you just need drug trials and the marketing. Traditional medicine could herald a new age of cheap drugs," Gupta told The Guardian..

Currently, it is very expensive to follow the Western approach to developing drugs. A so-called "blockbuster drug" can cost US \$15 billion and take 15 years to bring to the market. With patents lasting 20 years, a drug company can have as little as five years to recover its development costs. This helps explain the high prices for drugs.

Unlike traditional healers in the South, multinational corporations can marshal the money, time and legal resources to file patents.

In the past, India has fought expensive and lengthy battles to revoke patents on traditional remedies. One example is the battle over the popular Indian spice turmeric powder (used for healing wounds, among other things). A patent awarded to the University of Mississippi in 1995 was successfully withdrawn after a legal battle by the Indian government.

The Indian government's move to make traditional medicines and therapies public property promises to unleash a new wave of natural remedies and drugs and to expand the market for Southern health entrepreneurs drawing on traditional knowledge and recipes.

As the world's economy continues to suffer, finding new ways to earn incomes and spark a whole new generation of businesses will be crucial to recovery.

The World Health Organization defines traditional medicine as "the sum total of knowledge, skills and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures that are used to maintain health, as well as to prevent, diagnose, improve or treat physical and mental illnesses."

The importance of traditional medicines in primary health care can be seen in Asia and Africa, where its usage reaches 80 percent of the population in some countries (WHO). Herbal medicines alone are worth billions of dollars a year in

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sales. Examples of traditional remedies include antimalarial drugs developed from the discovery and isolation of artemisinin from *Artemisia annua* L., a plant used in China for almost 2000 years. In 2003, doctors found scientific evidence supporting the use of traditional Ghanaian plants to help wounds heal. Parts of the African tulip tree and the Secamone afzelli are made into pastes which are applied to wounds.

The downside of traditional medicine is the urgent need for better regulation and safety standards. While more than 100 countries have regulations for herbal medicines, counterfeit, poor quality or adulterated herbal medicines are still a major problem.

Herbal treatments are the most popular form of traditional medicine, and are highly lucrative in the international marketplace. Annual revenues in Western Europe reached US \$5 billion in 2003-2004.. In China, sales of products totalled US \$14 billion in 2005. Herbal medicine revenue in Brazil was US \$160 million in 2007 (WHO).

One initiative is ensuring there is a solid future for traditional medicine in India. Charity Bodytree India, set up in 2004 by a group of health, human rights and education workers, addresses issues surrounding access to health care and the disappearing traditional medical practices amongst isolated indigenous communities. Bodytree has established a successful educational programme that trains young people from different indigenous communities to become community health workers and operates programmes of health education for community groups (<http://www.bodytree.org/index.html>).

Almost four-fifths of India's billion people use traditional medicine and there are 430,000 Ayurvedic medical practitioners registered by the government in the country. The department overseeing the traditional medical industry, known as Ayush, has a budget of 10 billion rupees (US \$260 million).

In the state of Kerala in India's South, Ayurveda medical tourism has become a good income generator. And it is so popular in the nearby nation of Sri Lanka, hotels can have Ayurveda included in the name.

Indian entrepreneurs are drawing on increasing awareness of the importance of healthy living and rising interest in vegetarian diets – what were once holidays are now health experiences. With global obesity rates rapidly rising, along with the attendant diseases like cancer and diabetes, more and more people are looking for a dramatic change to their eating and lifestyle habits to ensure long-term health. And traditional medicine has solutions.

LINKS:

- The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, India. The website gives detailed descriptions of the practices and information on research. **Website:** <http://indianmedicine.nic.in/>
- WHO Factsheet on traditional medicines. **Website:** <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs134/en/>
- Third Global Summit on HIV/AIDS and Indigenous Knowledge in Celebration of 7th African Traditional Medicine Day, August 25-31, 2009. **Website:** <http://www.africa-first.com/3rdglobalsummit2009/Default.aspx>
- General Guidelines for Methodologies on Research and Evaluation of Traditional Medicine by the World Health Organization. **Website:** <http://www.who.int/medicinedocs/en/d/Jwhozip42e/5.2.html>
- UNESCO's Open Training Platform provides a plethora of training manuals on how to set up traditional medicine businesses. **Website:** http://opentraining.unesco-ci.org/cgi-bin/page.cgi?g=Categories%2FHealth_and_sanitation%2FTraditional_medicine%2Findexhtml:d=1
- An online shopping site based in Kerala, India offers a wide range of the Ayunstra (healing) clothing: <http://www.ayunastronline.com/>
- Highlights from the WHO's first Congress on Traditional Medicine in 2008. **Website:** <http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/traditional/congress/en/index>
- Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network: an excellent first stop for any entrepreneur, where they can find out standards and

regulations and connect with education and training opportunities: www.apctt-tm.net and www.aptm.cn

Accessing Global Markets Via Design Solutions

The power of design to improve products and the way they are manufactured is increasingly being seen as a critical component of successful economic development.

The importance of trade – both South-South and South-North – as a reducer of poverty in developing countries is now widely acknowledged. Countries that have made the biggest gains in reducing poverty, like China, India and Brazil, have done it through trade.

The power of trade in high quality goods to raise incomes has been proven for more than a decade. South-South trade grew by an average of 13 percent per year between 1995 and 2007. By 2007, South-South trade made up 20 percent of world trade. And over a third of South-South commerce is in high-skill manufacturing. Making finished goods, rather than just selling raw materials, improves workers' skill levels and increases the return on trade.

But trying to get other people to desire and buy your products is very tricky. Design plays a major part in understanding the unique demands of countries and markets, and what people find appealing or repellent.

A product that has both a successful design (people want to buy it) and is produced efficiently (a well-designed manufacturing process), will generate a good profit.

In India, the Craft Resource Centre or CRC Exports Limited of Kolkata (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calcutta>) has been successfully selling leather travel bags to the Vodafone (http://www.vodafone.com/hub_page.html) mobile phone company in The Netherlands. It did this by teaming up with Dutch Designers in Development (<http://www.ddid.nl/english/index.html>), an NGO focused on matching European importers and retailers and professional designers with small and medium enterprises in the South.

Founded in 1989, CRC applies the concept of adding value to turn small-scale and poor artisans into successful and sustainable businesses. Many of these traditional handicraft artisans subsist on low incomes. CRC provides artisans across India with marketing, design, finance and exporting help. It also connects them with other artisans and helps to divide projects between them. This has the power of using networks to help in bad times while also sharing opportunities when they come up.

CRC's director, Irani Sen, has divided the more than 15,000 artisans they work with into 15 different trading groups. CRC has also consulted to over 350 projects across Asia.

"The best thing fair trade gives (artisans) is the continuity of work ... and with the continuity comes the basic security," Sen said on the CRC website. "With that security they can develop, they can plan and then we try to motivate them for education, health (and) education for their children."

It all began with a need: Dutch company Unseen Products (www.unseenproducts.com/home) needed somebody to make high-quality leather travel bags for their client, Vodafone, who in turn wanted the bags as an incentive for their employees. Unseen Products is a business connecting European retailers with small producers in the South to build long-term business relationships. They seek to make "unseen or hard to find products accessible at commercially interesting prices."

They approached Dutch Designers in Development (DDiD), which in turn recommended CRC.

As a matchmaker, DDiD puts together European clients, Dutch designers and small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. The designers share their knowledge of European consumer tastes, product development, design and quality standards.

DDiD receives orders from companies, NGOs and government agencies to stimulate the production and sale of sustainable products from developing countries in Europe.

The Dutch group works with producers to develop skills and adapt producers' products to present and future demands in Europe. By following this approach, Southern producers can reduce the risk of making products nobody wants, or that lack originality in the marketplace and thus won't sell.

DDiD explains to producers the importance of design and how it improves the product and the business. Good design, the group believes, should reduce production costs and the time taken to get to market, and boost the reputation of the product brand and maker.

Well-known Dutch bag designer Ferry Meewisse (<http://www.ferry.com/hiep/Entrance.seam?labelId=1>) was brought in to work with CRC's artisans to craft new bags and a new way of making them.

Meewisse said he was uncertain at first whether the artisans would be able to make the highly complex bags. The solution was to break down the bag into smaller parts. And that is where the knowledge of design process comes into play.

"The button bag for example is a complex bag that has been taken apart: compartments, pockets, handles," said Meewisse. "This provided us with elements that were each really simple to manufacture. After that the pieces would only have to be clicked together with the buttons. And there it was: a complete bag with all the elements you need in a good bag."

The bags can be seen here: <http://www.frry.com/hiep/guest/GuestSeries.seam?seriesId=9&conversationId=30930>

Stella van Himbergen, a project manager at DDiD, said the concept is about introducing a new way of looking at things through the prism of design.

"Small producers in developing countries are not lacking craftsmanship," said Himbergen. But, she added, "it is important for producers to receive support in production-led design, and not only in aesthetic design."

Conceptually, this is the difference between designing and making something because it is aesthetically pleasing, and taking a market-driven design approach - letting market demands lead to the design solution. As a different way of looking at things, it takes in the company's vision, brand values and positioning in the marketplace, production requirements (costs, sustainability), organization, and client's needs.

DDiD helps producers learn how to quickly create new products based on market demands. They also raise the level of awareness of design to global standards, and show how to apply this across the production process, from graphic design, to packaging, retail and exhibition space, brand design and design management. Since 2005, the group has completed 46 international projects.

DDiD also stresses sustainability, encouraging the use of environmentally friendly materials such as biological cotton, bamboo and water hyacinth for paper and rope.

Apart from Vodafone, the CRC-made bags are sold in shops and on the web.

The extra attention to design seems to have paid off. CRC's bags have been such a success that a second order has been placed. And CRC has picked up another project from Dutch importer Global Goodies (<http://www.globalgoodies.nl/>).

LINKS:

1.) Dutch Design in Development

Websites: <http://www.ddid.nl/english/index.html>

2.) Design for the Other 90%: An exhibition exploring a growing movement among designers to design low-cost solutions for the "other 90%" ignored by most products and services. **Website:** <http://other90.cooperhewitt.org/design/?c=water>

3.) Ferry Meewisse also blogged in Dutch about his experience here. **Website:** <http://www.ferryinindia.blogspot.com/>

4.) The Brazilian flip-flop maker Havaianas has become a global phenomenon with its unique, design-sawy business model. **Website:** <http://www.havaianas.com.br/>

5.) Shoes produced in a partnership between a French shoe maker and Brazilian farmers, and inspired by 1970s Brazilian volleyball stars' shoes. **Website:** <http://www.veja.fr/>

6.) The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognised quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design. **Website:** <http://www.red-dot.de/>

Berber Hip Hop Helps Re-ignite Culture and Economy.

Music is being used to revive the ancient language of the original North African desert dwellers, the Berbers (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berber_people). And in the process, it is spawning a whole new generation of entrepreneurs and generating income.

The Berbers are North Africa's indigenous people, primarily living in Morocco, Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia, but their language and culture – called Amazigh – were replaced as the lingua franca of the region after the Arab conquest in the 7th century. But all these years later, the language is enjoying resurgence under Morocco's king, Mohammed VI, who is helping to promote the language through television programming and a new law making teaching of the language compulsory in schools by 2010.

Amazigh people - the name means "free humans" or "free men" – total more than 50 million. Their group languages, called Tamazight, are spoken by several million people across North Africa, with the largest number in Morocco.

For young Moroccans, promoting the language is more interesting when hip hop (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip_hop_music) is thrown into the mix.

Where once Berber culture was shunned in Morocco and the language banned in schools, the revival of the Tamazight language has led to a flourishing of summer arts festivals, thriving Tamazight newspapers _ and Tamazight hip hop.

One hip-hop outfit, Rap2Bled from the Moroccan city of Agadir, stick to social issues, singing about unemployment, drug addiction and the emancipation of women.

"My mother and grandfather don't know any Arabic...Before they couldn't watch television, read a newspaper. They hadn't got a clue what was going on in the world. They didn't know anything," Rap2Bled singer Aziz, who goes by the street name Fatman, told to Radio Netherlands Worldwide.

"But now there is a TV channel in our local dialect and a newspaper. But our aim is to put the language on the map by fusing it with hip hop. More than 60 per cent of young Moroccans only listen to rap and western music. So we thought why not fuse Berber with that and make it really accessible?"

Just 10 years ago, rap and hip hop were virtually unknown in Morocco, with only a small group of hip hop aficionados listening to big American stars like Dr Dre, Tupac Shakur and Notorious BIG.

But today hip hop culture and way of life (of which rap and hip hop music are a part) have become a powerful force in Moroccan culture. Moroccan rap focuses on local issues like unemployment and injustice and is ubiquitous on radio and TV.

The Casa Crew, from Casablanca, has become so successful since their beginnings in 2003 that their fan base stretches to Spain and Algeria.

"First of all, to designate rap simply as mere 'music' deprives it of its real impact," Caprice from the Casa Crew (<http://casa-crew-00.skyrock.com/>), told the Arab Media News, Menassat.

"Rap is a life style, and mainly a culture of convictions. The fact that rap is spreading in countries like Morocco is an excellent sign. On the one hand, it's proof that the youth are starting to react, to think they have the right to express themselves in any way they see fit, without anyone judging them or denying them of that right. On the other hand, the development of rap means that the space for artistic freedom is growing particularly when considering that a majority of Arab rappers are dealing with subjects that we were forbidden to speak about a few years ago."

The Amazigh revival industry centres around large music festivals. Timitar Festival in Agadir (<http://www.moroccotfestivals.co.uk/timitar.html>) gets crowds surpassing 500,000, with more than 40 artists. Morocco's biggest festival helps Amazigh artists meet world musicians and learn how to reach music fans outside of Morocco.

Another pioneer of Morocco's music industry is Mohamed 'Momo' Merhari, a young music entrepreneur and winner of the British Council's International Young Music Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2008 (<http://www.creativeconomy.org.uk/>).

Momo is a music consultant and co-founder of the "Boulevard des Jeunes Musiciens" (<http://www.boulevard.ma/>), the largest contemporary music festival in North Africa, featuring 50 bands over four days, and reaching a live audience of 130,000 people. The annual event showcases new talent from the worlds of hip hop, rock and jazz fusion from all over the region.

In January, Morocco's culture minister Touria Jabrane promised to introduce a range of measures to financially support Moroccan musicians, composers and the industry as whole.

LINKS:

- International Young Music Entrepreneur of the Year award: an award from the British Council. Website: <http://www.creativeconomy.org.uk/UKYCE/index.asp?ID=35> The British Council also sponsors numerous awards for international creatives

Website: <http://www.creativeconomy.org.uk/>

- The United Nations of Hip Hop: A web portal for African hip hop news, music and resources. Website: <http://www.unitednationsofhiphop.com/>

- The Timitar music festival happens every year in July in Morocco's Agadir. It brings together Amazigh musicians with other African and world musicians.

Website: <http://www.festival-timitar.com/timitar.html>

- The annual Amazigh Film Festival happens every year in January in Los Angeles, California, USA **Website:** <http://www.tukshop.biz/>

Cashing in on Music in Brazil.

Brazilian musicians have found a way to prosper and exploit the realities of music distribution in the modern age. The biggest problem for most artists – both beginners and those who are more established – is how to earn an income from their work. In the digital age, it is next to impossible to stop people freely copying your work and passing it on.

The impact of digital technology on the global music business has been earth-shattering. It's estimated 95 percent of music digital downloads are unauthorized, with no payment to artists and producers. While the legal digital music business grew for the sixth consecutive year in 2008, with a 25 percent increase in global sales to a trade value of US\$3.7 billion, this only makes up 20 percent of total music sales (IFPI) (<http://www.ifpi.org/>). Even legal digital services like Apple's iTunes have suffered (<http://www.apple.com/downloads/>).

An economic solution to this conundrum is critical for the growth of creative economies in the South.

The traditional music industry model from the analogue age – where copies of music are tightly controlled and royalties and profits funnel back to recording companies – has come unstuck in the digital age. With digital recordings, it is easy to copy high quality music and distribute it for free through the Internet, by audio music players like the iPod or on discs.

Many are saying a corner has been turned: free distribution is the new future and illegal copying is the new normal. The model for music making has been turned on its head: from high investment and high returns, it is now low investment and low returns. And this model chimes very well with the world most Southern musicians live in. The chances for most of emulating the champagne and jets lifestyle of the Rolling Stones or Beyoncé is beyond their reality. But they can build a slower and more sustainable income with the new digital model.

A music phenomenon in Brazil's poorer neighbourhoods, tecnobrega (brega means cheesy or corny) is a mix of electronic beats from the 1980s, mixed with found snippets of strange sounds or sound bites, combined in a so-called 'mash-up' (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mashups>). It makes for an easy-to-dance-to mix.

"Tecnobrega is a regional music, the music that people here in (the state of) Para most enjoy," DJ Edilson told the BBC. "The secrets are the beats which drive people crazy."

With music becoming easier and cheaper to record to a high standard, and distribution of music less and less a money-making opportunity, musicians have turned to economic models revolving around live performance to make the bulk of their income.

"What is going on is that people, sometimes in very poor areas, are appropriating electronic instruments like computers and synthesizers to create their own music," said Ronaldo Lemos, a professor at the respected Getulio Vargas Foundation (<http://www.fgv.br/>) and project lead for the Creative Commons Brazil (<http://creativecommons.org/international/br/>).

"So this is a phenomenon that is going on not only in the tecnobrega scene but with many scenes around the world like Kuduro in Angola, Kwaito in South Africa, Bubblin' in Suriname."

The tecnobrega model works like this: People set up makeshift studios in their homes. They use a personal computer and a software programme to mix and blend the songs. Once the songs are ready, they either organize themselves, or more often, perform at a sound system party. There are said to be as many as 4,000 sound system parties per month in Belém (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belem>) and it is a hugely competitive market. The sound system parties can vary from a small crowd to heaving groups of 10 to 15,000 people.

The money for performing at these parties is good. A musician performing just once can make 2,200 reais (US \$919), and can do this 12 times a month. This is a good income compared to the minimum wage in Belém: 700 reais (US \$292). It is estimated it generates US \$1.5 million a month in Belém.

In Brazil, where many do not have broadband Internet and thus can't download music, fans buy pirated and cheap compact discs (CDs) in markets. Local musicians make their own CDs and give them free to local street vendors. While they make no money off the CDs that are then sold by the vendors, they do drum up publicity and profile. And they then use this to draw large paying crowds to their live gigs.

In just a few years, tecnobrega has become a multi-million dollar music business in Brazil. Once an artist has gained experience performing live at the parties, they can develop the skills to organize their own events, and boost their income accordingly.

One singer who has successfully exploited the opportunities raised by the tecnobrega phenomenon is Gaby Amarantos (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKjH_ghQa4). She now regularly appears on TV.

"We have found a new way to work," she told the BBC. "It is a new format and a new market model because we produce the music ourselves and the cost to make one song is very cheap."

"What happens is that the musicians skip the intermediaries," said Ronaldo Lemos.

"So the musicians do not make money from the CDs that are sold by the street vendors, they actually make money by playing live at the so-called sound system parties - the aparelhagem parties as we tecnobrega say here in Brazil - and also by selling CDs after they play live."

"No-one expects to make money from the CDs - they use it as a way to advertise the music and to advertise themselves as artists, and then their expectation is that they get invited to play at the sound system parties and clubs."

"The more their music gets distributed, the more they will make money in return."

The furious pace of innovation in the tecnobrega scene is all about generating more revenue and more income. New styles emerge to cater to new tastes: cyber tecnobrega, brega melody, electro melody. And this passion for innovation has kept the tecnobrega entrepreneurs ahead of the traditional music business in how it uses digital technologies.

Lemos calls tecnobrega a "globoperipheral music": it transcends rich and poor divisions and geographical boundaries.

Other examples include Argentina's Cumbia Villera, or Brazil's Funk Carioca.

"The number one lesson would be innovation - if you want to survive in the music industry right now you have to innovate," said Lemos.

LINKS:

- Good Copy, Bad Copy: A Danish documentary film by director Andreas Johnsen about the global explosion in movie- and music-making because of the digital revolution. **Website:** <http://www.goodcopybadcopy.net/>
- A documentary trailer for a film about tecnobrega in Brazil directed by Gustavo Godinho e Vladimir Cunha. **Website:** <http://www.vimeo.com/1993239>

Window on the World

- **The Global Commonwealth of Citizens: Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy**
by Danielle Archibugi, Publisher: Princeton University Press.
Website: www.amazon.com
- **China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities**
by C. Fred Bergsten, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute
Website: www.petersoninstitute.org
- **Challenges of Globalization: Imbalances and Growth**
by Anders Aslund and Marek Dabrowski, editors, Publisher: Peterson Institute
Website: www.petersoninstitute.org
- **Reinventing Foreign Aid**
by William Easterly, editor, Publisher: The MIT Press
Website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>
- **Global Powers in the 21st Century**
by Alexander T. J. Lennon and Amanda Kozlowski, editors, Publisher: The MIT Press
Website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>
- **Global Development 2.0: Can Philanthropists, the Public, and the Poor Make Poverty History?**
By Lael Brainard and Derek Chollet, editors, Publisher: Brookings Institution Press.
Website: www.brookings.edu/press
- **Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There Is Another Way for Africa**
By Dambisa Moyo, Publisher: Allen Lane. In *Dead Aid*
Dambisa Moyo describes the state of post-war development policy in Africa today and unflinchingly confronts one of the greatest myths of our time: that billions of dollars in aid sent from wealthy countries to developing African nations has helped to reduce poverty and increase growth
Website: <http://www.deadaid.org/>
- **New Frontiers in Free Trade: Globalization's Future and Asia's Rising Role**
by Razeeen Sally, Publisher: Cato Institute.
Website: www.cato.org
- **World Economic Outlook: Financial Stress, Downturns, and Recoveries**
Publisher: IMF
Website: www.imf.org
- **The Thin Blue Line: How Humanitarianism Went to War**

by Christopher Davidson, Publisher: Columbia
Website: www.cato.org

■ **Dubai: The Vulnerability of Success**

by Conor Foley, Publisher: Verso
Website: www.cato.org

■ **The Thin Blue Line: How Humanitarianism Went to War**

by Conor Foley, Publisher: Verso
Website: www.cato.org

■ **The Life You Can Save: Acting Now to End World Poverty**

by Peter Singer, Publisher: Random House
Website: <http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/displayperl/9781400067107.html>

■ **The Trouble With Aid: Why Less Could Mean More for Africa**

by Jonathan Glennie, Published: Zed Books.
Website: www.amazon.com

■ **Immigrants: Your Country Needs Them**

by Philippe Legrain, Publisher: Abacus
Website: www.amazon.com

■ **Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism**

Edited by Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford, Publisher: Metropolis Books.

Expanding Architecture presents a new generation of creative design carried out in the service of the greater public and greater good. More than thirty essays by practicing architects and designers, urban and community planners, landscape architects, environmental designers, and members of other fields present recent work from around the world that suggests the countless ways that design can address issues of social justice, allow individuals and communities to plan and celebrate their own lives, and serve a much larger percentage of the population than it has in the past

■ **Website:** <http://www.metropolismag.com/story/20080918/expanding-architecture-design-as-activism-i>

Upcoming Events

2009

March

■ **Sustainability 2012: Shaping an Environmental Legacy for World Cities**

London, UK (25-27 March 2009)

The conference goal will be to provide a worthwhile sustainability blueprint for the development of future world cities and other large scale regeneration projects, and also for cities hosting future Olympics.

Website: www.sustainablegeneration.org

■ **FEDERE 2009 – CSR, a lever to overcome the crisis**

Paris, France (25-26 March 2009)

The way out of the crisis that is affecting the world economy involves sustainable development. What is the best way of exploiting the potentials of CSR? What management tools will be helpful? How to control an efficient sustainable development strategy? What are the most promising innovations and sectors? More than 600 leaders and managers of enterprises, NGOs, international institutions, and experts will attend the eighth FEDERE Forum to discuss these challenges.

Website: www.federe.fr

■ **Fair Trade Business Conference 2009**

Portland, Oregon, USA (27-29 March 2009)

As it celebrates its 15th birthday, the Fair Trade Federation will bring together leaders in the field of fair trade and social enterprise to discuss key issues and offer practical training to improve operations.

Website: www.FairTradeFederation.org

■ **Ethical Sourcing Forum North America 2009**

Bridgewater, New York (26-27 March 2009)

Broaden your understanding of sustainable business practices currently transforming global supply chain practices by attending the Ethical Sourcing Forum and learn about models that are being implemented and enablers that are driving success from business leaders, policymakers, academics and key industry stakeholders.

Website: <http://www.clear-profit.com/fw/esf09.htm>

- **Corporate Responsibility 2009: Building a New Corporate Agenda**

London, UK (30-31 March 2009)

This annual Chatham House conference, produced in partnership with FTSE, will bring together leading experts from business, civil society and government to discuss the challenges that will shape the 21st century. In particular, it will explore the outlines of a new agenda for business and its stakeholders to respond to increasing natural resource constraints, the need to promote human rights standards, and bring new technologies to market more quickly.

Website: www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/137/

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- **Solar Innovation and Investment**

Shanghai, China (31 March to 1 April 2009)

With the Asian & Chinese solar market particularly flourishing Solar Innovation & Investment Asia will be run alongside the 4th Annual AsiaSolar Expo, an event that focuses on photovoltaic's, solar system projects and solar architecture.

Website: www.greenpowerconferences.com/renewablesmarkets/sii_china.html

April

- **Sustainability through Conservation and Recycling**

Cape Town, South Africa (4-5 April 2009)

The rapid growth of the world economy is straining the sustainable use of the Earth's natural resources due to modern society's extensive use of metals, materials and products. An astute and conscious application and use of metals, materials and products supported by the reuse and recycling of these materials and end-of-life products is imperative to the preservation of the Earth's resources. The realisation of the ambitions of sustainable use of metals, materials and resources demands that the different disciplines of the material and consumer product system are connected and harmonised.

Website: <http://www.min-eng.com/srcc09/>

- **The Next Web Conference**

Amsterdam, Netherlands (15-17 April 2009)

The Next Web conference is known as one of the best networking events in Europe. It is a blend of decision makers from the European and American Internet scenes, technology entrepreneurs, start-ups, and innovators, along with venture capitalists, industry journalists, bloggers, and senior level executives.

Website: <http://2009.thenextweb.com/?jskit>

- **CALL FOR PANELS & WORKSHOPS: 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)**

Doha, Qatar (17-19 April 2009)

The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009) will be held 17-19 April 2009 at Carnegie Mellon's state-of-the-art campus in Doha, Qatar. This conference will act as a focal point for new scholarship in the field of ICT and international development. Confirmed speakers include a Keynote by William H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Website: <http://www.ictd2009.org>

Training Opportunities

- **Engineering Sustainability 2009**

ONGOING

Pittsburgh, USA(19-21 April 2009)

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free of charge, using an open source to share results of cutting edge research and practice directed at development of environmentally sustainable systems named OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.0 million users, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.
Website: www.engr.mit.edu/2009conference/conmain.htm
Website: <http://ocw.mit.edu/>

- **Youth Financial Services Course: Emerging Best Practices**

Washington DC, USA (6-5 March 2009)

Carbon Trade China 2009

The purpose of the course is to provide practitioners and others with an understanding of the importance of youth financial services and to empower them with the emerging good practices in the field to apply to their own programs. Beijing, China (21-23 April 2009)

This event will gather different levels of CDM owners & developers and tailor-make the conference for them. The conference attracts expectedly 600 senior executives including 300+ international leading buyers & service providers from China local CDM owner & developers, and 20+ provincial CDM service centres. 11 CDM project introduction, distinctive exhibition zones and pre-arranged "One-to-One Meeting" session are designed to facilitate the deep communications between buyers and sellers.

Website: <http://www.makingcents.com>

- **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

[Grameen Info](#)

April

- **Microenterprise and Development Institute-Ghana (MDI-Ghana)**
- **Sustainability through Conservation and Recycling**

Ghana (23 March 23 to 4 April 2009)
Cape Town, South Africa (4-5 April 2009)

The MDI is designed for microenterprise practitioners. The rapid growth of the world economy is straining the sustainable use of the Earth's natural resources due to modern Societies' excessive risk management, microfinance policies, corporate enterprise development, community of managed microfinance institutions, updates by the central microfinance offices, materials and end-of-life products is imperative to the preservation of the Earth's resources. The realisation of the ambitions of sustainable use of metals, materials and resources demands that the different disciplines of the material and consumer product system are connected and harmonised.

Website: <http://www.mdi.org/programmes/2009/>

- **Jobs for a Globalizing World: World Bank Labor Market Policy Core Course**

Washington DC, USA (30 March to 10 April 2009)

- **3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)**

A two week course offering a unique learning experience on how employment is being transformed in today's rapidly changing, globalizing environment. The course identifies key labor market challenges within the context of overall poverty reduction and other economic and social development goals, and explores what policy makers and others can do about them. The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009) will be held 17-19 April 2009 at Carnegie Mellon's state-of-the-art campus in Doha, Qatar. This conference will offer <http://ictd2009.cmu.edu/> scholarship in the field of ICT and international development. Confirmed speakers include a Keynote by William H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- **Sustainable Tourism Criteria Announced**

- **Engineering Sustainability 2009**

Experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments, and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

This focused conference will bring together engineers and scientists from academia, government, industry, and non-profits to share results of cutting edge research and practice directed at development of environmentally sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

Website: www.sustainabletourismcriteria.org

- **Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners**

Website: www.enqr.pitt.edu/msi/2009conference/confmain.htm

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor.

- **Carbon Trade China 2009**

Although MFLs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

This event will gather different levels of CDM owners & developers and tailor-make the conference for them.

The conference attracts expectedly 600 senior executives including 300 + international leading buyers & service providers,

250+ China local CDM owner & developers, and 20+ provincial CDM service centres. 11 CDM project introduction,

- **The Citizen Journalism in Africa Programme**

The Citizen Journalism in Africa Project aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations to use online and offline citizen journalism as a means of publication, lobby, networking and knowledge sharing with their constituencies. The focus will be on both traditional and new media. Special attention will be given to the development of sound and ethical journalistic, lobby, networking and publication skills. Supported by the European Union, the project will be implemented over the next three years.

May <http://www.citizenjournalismafrica.org/>

- **The Grassroots Reporting Project**

One of our goals at AfriGadget (<http://www.afriegadget.com/>) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's [goal is to leverage the power of](#) current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of authorities, famous entrepreneurs, hi-tech providers, ESCos, financial institutions, equipment vendors, African Ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program, as well as opportunities and business strategies of the energy efficiency market in Asia especially in China.

Website: <http://www.afriegadget.com/>

CAREERS <http://www.globaleaders.com/en/2009/eea/eea.asp>

- **Investing in Africa's Emerging Markets Networking Website**

- May**

 - **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**
Seniors in the Commonwealth Secretariat are providing career guidance for EDA is interested in Africa youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that **Website:** www.chatthamhouse.org.uk provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about **MEDC International Conference Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development and Multisectoral Approaches**
 - **African Diaspora Skills Database**
The WEDC International Conference is a highly respected global platform for practitioners, decision makers, academics and researchers who lead water and sanitation innovation in developing countries. Click [here](#) to view some photos of the 2008 conference.
 - **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**
Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work. This event will bring together global corporate visionaries, policy makers, environmental advocacy groups, and many others to discuss how industry can work together to meet the needs of a planet in
 - **Bizlounge**
Bizlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts **Website:** <http://sustainabilitysummit2009.com/> in an exclusive and relaxed environment.
 - **Business Action for Africa**
Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.
 - **International Student Energy Summit**
Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com> (July, Canada 11-13 July 2009)
 - **Business Fights Poverty**
The International Student Energy Summit (ISES) is a global forum that focuses on sustainable resource management. Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the and the role that students will play in defining the future of energy development. ISES is targeting a delegate base of 500 international, multidisciplinary post secondary students in undergraduate and graduate studies interested in energy. **Website:** <http://businessfightspovertyning.com> This event will create a network of driven individuals looking to make a difference in the energy sector.
 - **Business in Development Network (BiD)**
Website: [www.studentenergy.org](http://studentenergy.org). The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.
 - **The Global Corporate Responsibility Reporting Summit 2009**
Website: <http://www.bidnetwork.org> (Brussels, Belgium (11-12 June 2009))
 - **Catalogue of Poverty Networks**
The past decade has seen an explosion in corporate social responsibility and sustainability reporting, knowledge and sharing this broad audience in 2009 more Poverty Networks on web based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborative networks which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations. **Website:** <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do>
 - **Connections for Development (CFD)**
Website: www.ethicalcorp.com/globalreporting/
 - **Cities and Climate Change Response: The Urgent Agenda**
A UK based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy (Marseilles, France (28-30 June 2009)) and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world". **Website:** <http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk>
 - **Development Crossing**
At a time when climate change is a major priority for the international community, this Symposium aims at pushing forward the research agenda on climate change from a city's perspective. It is structured around five broad research clusters which represent the most relevant issues faced by cities and peri-urban areas on climate change. Development Crossing was set up in 2008 by a small group of people with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development. **Website:** www.urs2009.net/
 - **Global Conference on Global Warming**
Website: <http://www.developmentcrossing.com> (Istanbul, Turkey (5-6 July 2009))
 - **DevelopmentAid.org**
The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector. DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors. **Website:** <http://www.developmentaid.org>
 - **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway**

Website: <http://www.ngow.org> dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

September

Diaspora African Forum

- **2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference** will be the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union. It's September 29-30, 2009 'part of the Continent'. We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to Young Africans Internationally it is planned to be held in the 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference that will take place in Washington DC September 29-30, 2009 at the Cafritz Conference Center. This participatory and demand-driven

learning event will convene 350 leading stakeholders in the fields of youth enterprise, employment, livelihoods

Eids Communities

development, microfinance, education, and health. Members of all sectors will share their promising practices, unique Eids aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eids' Community is a free on-line approaches, and groundbreaking ideas, that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important businesses or seek quality employment. Registration will open January 25th and we invite you to submit a proposal to you.

during the Call for Proposals process, which will launch February 16th.

Website: <http://communityeids.org>

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

October

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum - Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different Busan, Korea (27-30 October 2009) communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km-fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chqjll>

Website: <http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org>

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Websites: Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-africa/gtz-community/>

Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: <http://www.ledknowledge.org>

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html>

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: <http://www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179>

AfDevInfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevInfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: <http://www.afdevinfo.com>

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: <http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org>

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

■ Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

—This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

[Website:](http://www.sacca.biz) www.sacca.biz

■ Piramal Foundation in India

—Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

[Website:](http://www.piramalprize.org) www.piramalprize.org

■ The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

—This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

[Website:](#) [Pioneers of Prosperity](#)

■ African Writers Fund

—Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

[Website:](http://www.trustafrika.org) <http://www.trustafrika.org>

■ Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

—Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Email: namstct@vsnl.com;
namstct@bol.net.in;
apknam@gmail.com;

[Website:](http://www.scidev.net) <http://www.scidev.net>

■ Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

—Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

[Click here for more information](#)

■ US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

—AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

[Website:](http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/) <http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/>

■ PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

[Website:](http://www.acci.org.za) <http://www.acci.org.za>

■ Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

—A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

■ **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

—A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

■ **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

—They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: <http://www.echoingreen.org/>

■ **2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**

—The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, today launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the leading awards for triple bottom line banking.

Two new categories - Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year - have been added to the ground-breaking programme.

The awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

FUNDING

■ **UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation**

—The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: www.unesco.org

■ **Funding - Google.org**

—While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment. **Website:** www.google.org

■ **Challenge InnoCentive**

—A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com/>

You can read more about the challenges here: <http://www.rockfound.org>

■ **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

—Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

■ [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)

■ [Africa Union](#)

■ [CARE](#)

■ [Christian Children's Fund](#)

■ [ECOWAS](#)

■ [International Crisis Group](#)

■ [International Medical Corps](#)

■ [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)

■ [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)

■ [Save the Children](#)

■ [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)

■ [TrustAfrica](#)

■ [UN Jobs](#)

■ [UNDP](#)

- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)

- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
[cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation